



Gail A. Reinard
Executive Director

Senate State Government Committee

Senator Charles T. McIlhinney, Jr.
Chairman

Room 187 Capitol Building, Senate Box 203010, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3010 • (717) 787-7305 • (717) 783-5962

BILL SUMMARY **Senate Bill 895, Printer's Number 1065** **Prime Sponsor: Browne**

A. Synopsis:

Senate Bill 895 designates the Pennsylvania Rifle as the official firearm of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

B. Bill Analysis:

This legislation designates the Pennsylvania Rifle as the official firearm of Pennsylvania. The legislation states that Pennsylvania's early settlers placed chief reliance on their rifles for sustenance, security and survival. The Pennsylvania Rifle was the first American firearm and due to its exceptional accuracy and range was considered the greatest achievement in the development of firearms during the 18th century. The rifle was developed by skilled gunsmiths in the Moravian communities of Christian's Spring, Northampton County as well as by artistic riflemaker Martin Meylin, of Lancaster County.

C. Summary of Existing Law:

Currently there is no designation in statute for an official firearm. Official state symbols include: state flag, state animal, state game bird, state dog, state fish, state flower, state insect, state beverage, state tree, state ship, state plant and state fossil. Most of these designations were established through acts of the General Assembly.